

Express Mail Label No. EL568948202US  
Divisional of U.S. Serial No. 09/262,378  
"Saline Soluble Inorganic Fibers"  
Filed: October 24, 2000  
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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--21. The method of claim 19 wherein said vitreous fibers are formed into a needled blanket.--

--22. The method of claim 14, wherein the vitreous fibers crystallize as diopside after exposure to a temperature of 1000°C, and wherein said diopside comprises:

- (a) 59 through 64 percent by weight SiO<sub>2</sub>;
- (b) 19 through 23 percent by weight CaO;
- (c) 14 through 17 percent by weight MgO; and
- (d) 0 through 3.5 percent by weight Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.--

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#### REMARKS

New claims 14-22 are fully supported by the specification as originally filed, and correspond to claims 23-28, 30, and 31 in parent application Serial No. 09/262,378. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are novel and nonobvious over Olds et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,332,699), Olds et al. (WO 87/05007), or Karppinen et al., and that the rejections made by the Examiner over these references in the parent application should not be repeated.

The claims recite a process for insulating an article against temperatures that may exceed 900 °C. None of the above references teach insulating against such a high temperature, which is

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quite different from insulating against another, lower temperature. As a result, the references do not anticipate the claimed invention. Moreover, there is no teaching or suggestion to use the materials described in the above references to insulate against such high temperatures. In particular, there is no teaching or suggestion that the materials described in the references would be able to withstand temperatures that exceed 900 °C without shrinking. As the Examiner is no doubt aware, even if a fiber can withstand high temperatures, if it shrinks substantially when exposed to those temperatures, then its value as insulation is very low, since the shrinkage will cause gaps in the insulation.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, and an early notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Order Account No. 11-0855.

Respectfully submitted,



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